

The Ministry of Loving, Listening, and Praying

Session 2a: Prayer Model Overview

Rockford Reformed Church, Rockford, MI

Prepared by Pastor Paul Bradford

Revised 9/8/2015

1. Listen

A. Listening to the person – *“What would you like Jesus to do for you today?”*

1. On the natural level: We interview the person to discern the specific need which is to be brought before Jesus for healing.
2. You may re-interview the person as you pray.
3. Occasionally an interview won't be needed because prayer direction has been given by a pastor or leader.

B. Listening to God – *“What is God saying about your need?”*

1. On the spiritual level: Listen to what Holy Spirit is saying.
2. Create time to hear God speak: You can begin praying by saying something like: Let's begin by being still so we can hear what the Lord may be saying about your situation.
3. Later we'll look at *five areas of need* and several *causes of brokenness*.

2. Pray

A. Prayer Engagement – *Coming before the Father in expectant faith.*

1. Prayer ministry should be specifically directed toward the diagnosed problem while looking for indications of the Spirit's presence.
2. Laying on of hands (Jesus – Luke 4:40, Apostles – Acts 8:17, All believers – Mark 16:18)
3. Anointing with Oil (Apostles – Mark 6:13, Elders – James 5:14)
4. When you have questions, ask the person what they are experiencing or thinking.
5. When to stop praying
 - The healing is complete.
 - You sense the Spirit is finished for now, or the person indicates they have received what they need.

3. Encourage

A. Post-prayer encouragement and direction – *How can I encourage this person in his or her journey towards wholeness? What should this person do next?*

1. Summarize the situation - Explain what has occurred. Encourage additional prayer if appropriate.
2. Share any gifts of encouragement or exhortation given to you by the Holy Spirit.

B. Things to Avoid: Don't give personal advice. Don't do in depth counseling. Don't condemn a person for not receiving healing.

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Session 2b: Listening, Part 1

Rockford Reformed Church, Rockford, MI

Prepared by Bren Shantz

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1. Why is listening important?

- A. Listening is the most important and most powerful force in the world.
- B. Being “known”
- C. The etiology of pathology (that is, “the beginning of emotional brokenness): Not having the experience of consistent love and care that comes when someone truly listens to you and hears you, can cause detachment and emotional brokenness.

2. The foundation of counseling

A. Empathy – The ability to enter the private world of another person so as to understand that world.

1. Try to understand
2. Tune into and reflect the other person’s feelings
3. Discuss what’s Important
4. Recognize nonverbal clues
5. Reach out to share another person’s experience

B. Unconditional Positive Regard (high esteem or respect)

1. Acceptance & Warmth
2. Demonstrate interest and commitment
3. Develop empathy
4. Communicate warmth
5. Suspend critical judgment
6. Reinforce strengths

C. Genuineness (authenticity)

1. Be yourself
2. Maintain consistency between verbal and nonverbal behavior
3. Be spontaneous and natural
4. Choose to save the relationship rather than being concerned about your own feelings or saving your own face
5. Share relevant personal information about yourself